

The Pat and Dick Show

SIX CRISES. By Richard M. Nixon. Doubleday. 460 pp. \$5.95.

By WILLIAM V. SHANNON

It is a little early for summer television, but the Doubleday network is offering "Six Crises," a rerun of five episodes from that heart-warming family show, "Pat and Dick" plus "Campaign—1960," a pilot film for a future series.

Since these episodes commanded a large audience on their first run and were reviewed at the time by William Costello, Earl Mazo, Ralph De Toledano, and other critics, most viewers will find little new in this hot weather fare, despite the repackaging.



RICHARD M. NIXON

All the familiar cast is back in the Moscow kitchen and with their dog Checkers, and those flying colors. As these episodes unfold, one is scarcely prepared for the finale—the sponsors drop their option on the "Pat and Dick" show.

There are the villains, slick, smooth-talking Alger Hiss and big, bad Nick Khrushchev. Put-tering about is Daddy Eisenhower, sometimes exasperating but always lovable. (Nixon writes: "He (Eisenhower) was far more complex and devious man than most people realized, and in the best sense of those words.")

There are the big adventures

The dreariness of this book reflects Nixon's dull, two-dimensional character. These memoirs have no distinctive personal charm, no intellectual detachment, and few interesting reflections upon the man himself or the events he narrates.

Nixon is at his best in discussing the Hiss case, where he emphasizes intellectual commitment to communism as the primary explanation of Hiss's behavior. But even here, Nixon is frequently superficial. He twice refers to Dumbarton Oaks as a "monetary conference," obviously confusing it with Bretton Woods.

Nor can he refrain from repeating in a footnote the substance of the false attack he made years ago on Adlai Stevenson's role in the Hiss case.

Similarly, his chapter on the \$18,000 fund simply rehearses the argument of the Checkers speech without any sign that Nixon, in the perspective of 10 years, has had any second thoughts about the wisdom and desirability of such funds from the standpoint, not of his own integrity, but of democracy's integrity.

His "third crisis"—his own behavior during Eisenhower's heart attack and subsequent illnesses before and after the 1956 campaign—presents an embarrassing self-portrait of a nervous careerist. His fourth and fifth chapters, on his trips to Latin America and to Russia, add nothing new.

Of his account of the 1960 Presidential campaign, two points are worth noting. One

is Nixon's hostility toward the Washington press corps. He harps bitterly on their bias against him while congratulating himself on his refusal to complain to their publishers about it.

Most of the campaign reporters did dislike him to greater or lesser degree, but this was, in the case of most of them, a reflex response to his obvious dislike of them.

I covered his campaign for The Post and certainly did not expect to be embraced, but I have yet to figure out the mystery of why he was so dour and suspicious toward many other reporters who were personally conservatives and whose papers supported him. Somehow, he managed to make campaigning a cheerless enterprise for everybody.

The other item of note is his reverse-twist position on Cuba. Nixon now contends that in 1960 he favored military action against Castro, that Kennedy had been informed by the CIA that such an operation was in the works, that Kennedy was unfair, therefore, in attacking the Eisenhower Administration on this issue, and that he (Nixon) had to protect the secrecy of the operation by attacking Kennedy's views, which were actually his own.

His campaign speeches on Cuba, he now claims, were a kind of "cover story." Kennedy has denied that the CIA told him Cuban rebels were being trained. It is possible Nixon has disavowed his 1960 position and invented this curious explanation in order to be free to attack Kennedy on the Cuban issue in the future.

But this speculation is as depressing as the man who gives rise to it. The "Pat and Dick Show" will never beat the competition in its time-slot. The Fast, Fabulous, Fascinating Kennedy, Mr. and Jackie.